

# Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra

Basanti, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Presents its new programme

## **Educational Tourism in the Sundarbans**

for

Students of Schools, Colleges and Universities of Kolkata



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# Highlights of our programme

1. Visit a model village and learn about the life and livelihood of the rural folk
2. Learn about scientific methods of agriculture, fishery, and animal husbandry
3. Visit our Museum of Archaeology and learn the history and culture of the region  
and
4. Learn about the unique Biodiversity of the region and threats of climate change
5. Learn about method of preservation of drinking water and making it arsenic-free  
and
6. Visit 'Tiger Rescue Centre' to view tigers in the open (half day)
7. Visit Mangrove forest and wildlife in the 'Sundarban National Park' (by boat)  
and
8. Participate in interesting activities during your free time (fishing, boating, sports)



Administrative-cum-Training-cum-Hotel Building of JGVK



Vivekananda Shiksha Niketan (VSN) – High School of JGVK



# 1. Introduction

## 'Educational Tourism' and 'Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra (JGVK)'

### **Educational Tourism**

'**Tourism**' is a broad term generally meaning a combination of travel and recreation, and thus can be defined as traveling and spending time away from home in pursuit of recreation, relaxation, and pleasure.

**Educational tourism**, also called Edu-tourism, is actually, a sub type of the tourism sector, where any 'educational activity' constitutes the main – or at least a - major element of the total programme. Another characteristic of 'Educational Tourism' is that, it is organized for groups rather than for individuals, and, the topic is usually related to the place or area of visit. Thus, the term 'Educational Tourism' can be said to refer to any program in which participants travel to a location as a group, with the primary purpose of engaging in a learning experience, or research activities - the subject matter being usually directly related to the location. Different organisations offer different "Educational programmes" in their "Educational Tourism" packages.

The programmes being offered by Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra (JGVK) are described in the following section.

### **Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra (JGVK)**

Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra (JGVK), the organiser of this scheme, is an NGO operating from the village Joygopalpur in Basanti, South 24-Parganas, West Bengal. JGVK has been active in this region with their diverse rural development programmes since 2002, and has built up extensive knowledge and experience in the fields of Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Fishery, Health Services, Home Industries, and Water purification and preservation. During this process, they have also developed close contact with the rural folk of the region. Thus, JGVK is eminently suitable to offer interesting packages of "Educational Tourism" relating to the Sundarbans Region, to tourists from the other parts of West Bengal, and India. JGVK is also very conveniently located, literally at the doorstep to the Sundarbans Tiger and Biosphere reserves. Therefore, all our Educational Tour packages are combined with 'full-day boat trips' to the "Sundarban National Park" for unique and enjoyable experience of the serene waterways of the Gangetic Delta and the famous mangrove forests and wild life. More detailed information about JGVK and its activities will be provided on request.



**A few archaeological objects from the collection  
of the Museum of JGVK**



Buddha Murti (Mourya Age)  
2500 yr old



Nataraj (Kushan Age)  
2500 yr old



Gorur, Bronze (Gupta Age)  
2000 yr old



Brahatarasana (Pal Age)  
1500yr old



Pottery from Gupta Ages,  
2000 yr. old



Partha Sarathi, from the British Period



## The Programmes

The emphasis of all of our programmes are on the 'Educational' aspect, and these are all related to the Sundarbans region. The programmes are as follows:

### 1. Visit the Museum and learn the history and culture of the region

JGVK have, in their possession, a very interesting collection of archaeological artefacts which were originally found in and around the Sundarban region; some of these objects are nearly 2000 years old. JGVK has therefore decided to build a museum in the ground floor of the new resort building to house and display these objects.

From this collection, we can get an interesting account of the history and culture of the region, and therefore, a visit to this museum has been made as integral part of this programme. The Museum visit will be complemented by a classroom session.

Duration: Museum visit    2 hrs  
Classroom session        1 hr

### 2. Visit a model Village and the Home Industries section of JGVK to learn about the life and livelihood of the rural folk

This programme is designed to give students from Kolkata and other urban areas the opportunity to get acquainted with rural life from close quarters and gain first-hand knowledge about life and livelihood of the rural folk – where they live, how they live, their means of livelihood and of course their problems.

We believe that this experience will broaden the general outlook of the students and help them to understand the very different way the majority of their countrymen live.

Duration: Village visit            3 hrs  
Home Industries Centre    2 hrs

### 3. Learn about the threats of climate change on the Biodiversity of the region

The unique and huge biodiversity of the Sundarbans delta network, which contains the mangrove forest (largest in the world) and the Royal Bengal Tiger, is known to all, but its true complexity and utility to the inhabited area beyond it is known only to the interested few. A classroom session has therefore been planned in order to make the students aware of the facts.

Moreover, the general public is also hardly aware of the threat to the nature of this region from man-made actions like deforestation, restricting flow of water in the major rivers by building dams and barrages, hunting, etc. Since 1989, these threats have been brought partly under control by the Indian Government by declaring this area as a Biosphere Reserve.

But a much greater threat is now posed to the health of this Reserve by effects of climate change i.e., rise in ambient temperature and rise in sea level.

This is a really serious problem which every one of us should be fully aware of and therefore, we have planned a classroom session for all students.

Duration: Classroom session    1 hr







## The Programmes (Cont'd)

### 4. Learn about scientific methods of Agriculture, Fishery, and Animal Husbandry

This programme is designed mainly for students with a rural background but should also be of interest to other students with a scientific bent of mind.

As it happens, JGVK, with the help of their Danish associate IGF, has long been involved in developmental projects in the Sundarbans region, in the fields of Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, and Fishery, and along with that, JGVK has also been conducting scientific experiments in their own agricultural farms, fish ponds, and hatchery.

Thus, JGVK has built up a lot of scientific knowledge, which they believe will be of considerable interest for the students with inquisitive minds.

Duration: Visit JGVK's Agricultural farm	)
Polyhouse	) 3 hrs
Fishery/Hatchery	)

### 5. Learn about practical methods of preserving Drinking Water making it Arsenic-free

1. In many parts of India, including West Bengal, the availability of Drinking Water is simply inadequate to meet the demands of the growing population, specially in the dry months. The problem is getting more acute due to more and more of this water being diverted to the needs of irrigation. We are also dependant on rains, which is not always reliable, and the alternative source – ground water – is also getting depleted fast. In other words, we need to become conscious about preservation of this limited supply of Drinking Water – we shall discuss the practical means of doing that.

2. In the Sundarbans region, and also in many parts of West Bengal, the ground water is contaminated with unacceptably high percentage of arsenic. During the period 2004-12, JGVK, in association of a Danish University, ran a project on studying this problem and finding out suitable technology for elimination of arsenic from ground water.

JGVK would like to share the results of the experiment with students from rural areas with this problem.

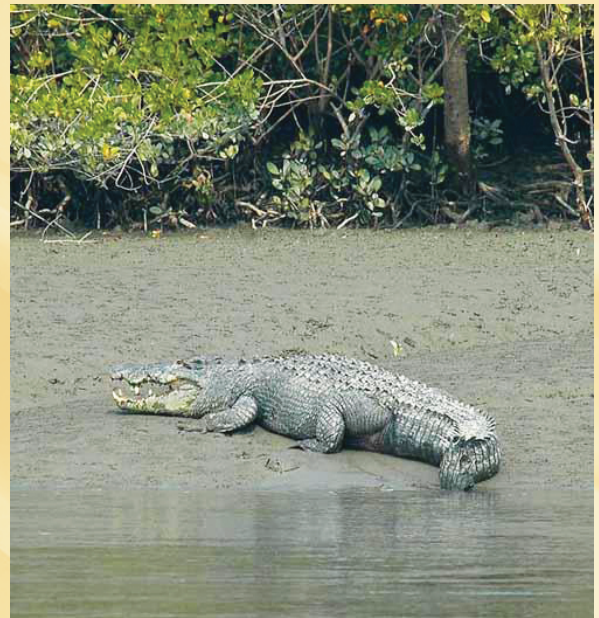
However, the problem also exists in the eastern suburbs of Kolkata and thus should be of interest to students from these localities.

Duration: Classroom 1 hr

The next 2 activities (described on next page) are of different nature than the previous five, with less stress on education and more on gaining new and interesting experience.

Besides, there is emphasis on relaxation and enjoyment so as to enhance the overall attraction of the tour package.







## The Programmes (Cont'd)

### 7. Visit 'Tiger Rescue Centre' to view tigers in the open

The Tiger Rescue Camp is not a real safari but, nevertheless, one can see this noble animal in the open. Besides, this centre is located in the same island as ours and not far from Joygopalpur. Hence, we have included a visit to this centre as an option. The visit does involve quite a bit of walking.

Duration: Visit to the Rescue Centre      3 hrs

### 8. Visit the 'Sundarban National Park and Tiger Reserve' by boat

An endless labyrinth of calm waterways, a vast expanse of the mangrove forest (the largest in the world), plus a variety of wild animals including the river crocodile and the famous Royal Bengal Tiger – altogether makes the Sundarban National Park and Tiger Reserve a very special place to visit.

This full-day trip (by boat) covers a reasonable part of the whole area and is guaranteed to be a fantastic experience.

The boat will leave from one of the 2 ferry ghats (Godkhali or Jharkhali) and will take you close to and partly inside the forest area, through broad and narrow channels, and you will also have the opportunity to go ashore to the special viewpoints within the park.

Duration: Excursion by boat      Full day (8 hrs)

Finally, we have not forgotten to leave a few hours free every day for relaxation and recreation. You may spend this free time by taking rest or by taking part in a number of sporting and recreational activities.

### 9. Interesting activities for your free time

You may take part in one or more of the following activities

- a) Outdoor sports: Badminton; Rowing
- b) Indoor sports: Table Tennis
- c) Other: Fishing
- d) At night: Sky watching (using our astronomical telescope)





The New “Educational Training Centre”  
building of JGVK



The Community  
Kitchen-cum-Dining  
Hall of JGVK

# Accommodation; Food; Practical Information

## Accommodation

JGVK will continue to use its existing accommodation and conference facilities in its administrative building to provide residential training facilities for its traditional guests from the Corporate Sector, Scientific Communities, and fellow NGO's.

However, in order to meet the increasing interest from these groups, and specifically for the groups of Students from Schools, Colleges, and Universities of Kolkata and other cities of West Bengal, JGVK has planned to set up its new Centre of Educational Tourism in a new building, within the premises of JGVK.

The new Centre will be a 2-storey building, of which,

- the Ground Floor will contain the Conference Hall cum Classroom and the Museum
- the First Floor will contain 10 airy bedrooms, each with 3 beds, and with attached bath/toilet and balcony.

**note: See facing page for the artist's impression of the building**

## Board (Food)

Morning: Tea and biscuits

Breakfast: Bread or Luchi, Ghugni, Egg, Banana

Lunch: Rice, Dal, Vegetables, Sweats, + Chicken or Mutton or Prawn

Afternoon: Tea and Biscuits + Samosa or Pastry

Dinner: Rice, Dal, Vegetable, Sweats + Egg or Fish

All meals will be prepared in JGVK's own kitchen, and served in its newly constructed Community Dining Hall.

**note: See facing page for photos of the Community Dining Hall**

## Practical Information

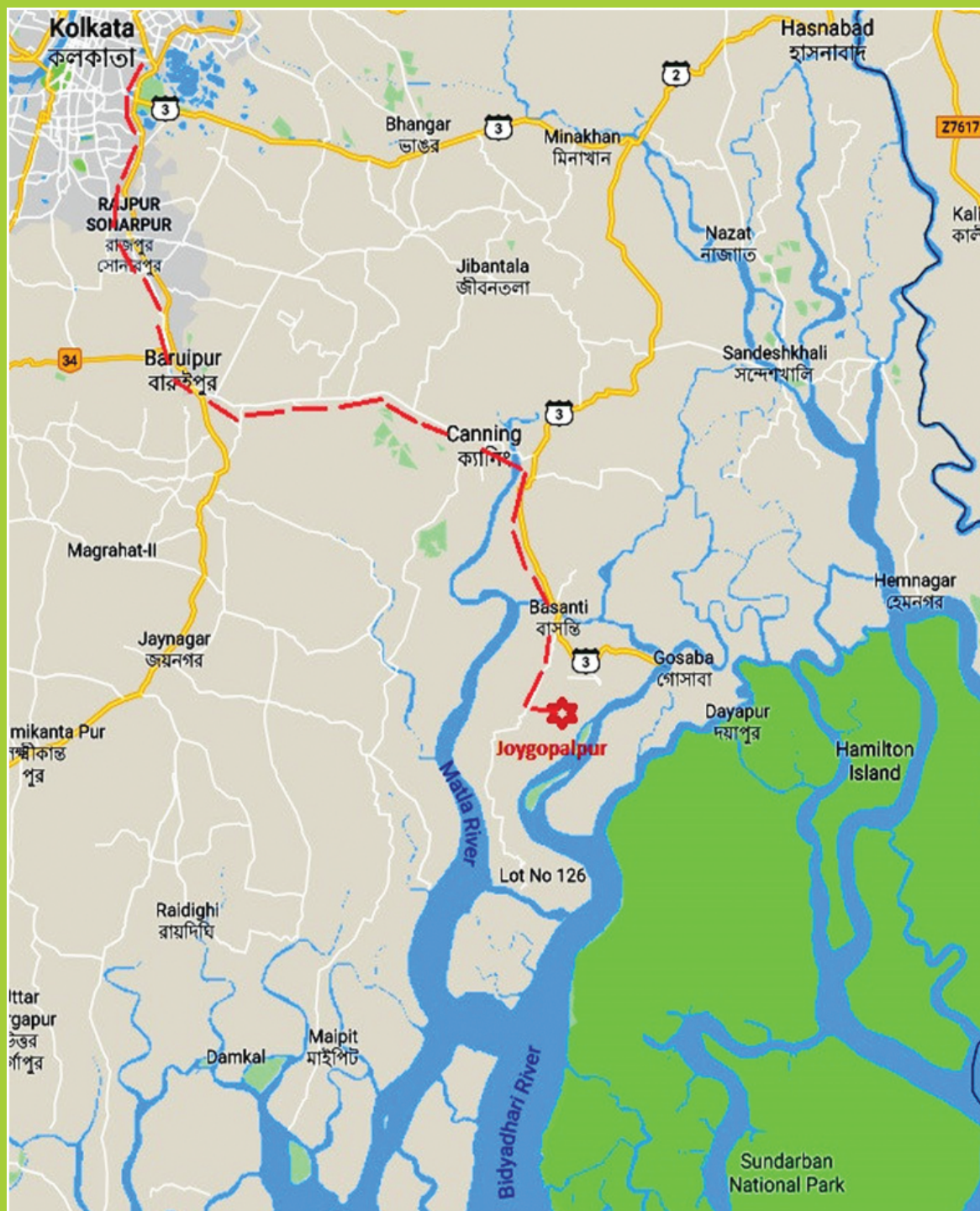
- a) Medical: Emergency medical help will be available whenever needed, but guests should bring medicines they normally use.
- b) Safety: The locality and the premises of JGVK are completely safe. The building will have all facilities against risk of fire
- c) Clothes, Shoes Come prepared for colder mornings/evenings of the Countryside. Bring along walking shoes
- d) Valuables Leave your valuable personal items at home.
- e) Internet There will be hotspots inside the residential building but the quality of service may not equal that in the city.



## Route: Kolkata (Garia) to Joygopalpur - by Road

(Via Sonarpur, Baruipur, Canning, Canning Bridge, Sonakhali Bridge, Basanti)

(Distance 65km; 2.5 hrs' drive)





## Standard Tour Package (3 Nights/ 4 Days) and Price

(for groups of students from Schools and Colleges of Kolkata)

### Standard Daily Routine

Timetable	Activity	Duration
6:30	Wakeup call	
07:00-0730	Morning Tea	0.5 hr
08:00-08:30	Breakfast	1 hr
09:00-12:00	Morning Outdoor Program of the day	3 hrs
12:30-13:30	Lunch	1hr
14:00-16:00	Afternoon Outdoor Program of the day	2 hrs
16:00-19:00	Afternoon Tea/Snacks; Recreational Activities	3 hrs
19:00-21:00	Meeting in Classroom for, - feedback of day's activity; programme of next day - documentary film/slide show/musical programme	1 hr 1 hr
21:00-22:00	Dinner	1 hr
22:00	Retire to own room	

### Programmes included in the Package

Day 1	12:00 – Arrive in JGVK; check in; Lunch at 12:30 14:00 Visit the Tiger Rescue Centre	3 hrs
Day 2	09:00 Visit a Model Village to meet villagers at home and in the fields of their work 14:00 Visit Home Industries section of JGVK to see Weaving, Tailoring, Knitting, Doll making, Spice Making etc; Visit JGVK's handicraft shop 19:00 Discussion on “Problem of Arsenic in ground water”	3 hrs 2 hrs 1 hr
Day 3	09:00 Visit JGVK's Model Farm, Polyhouse, and Fisheries to learn modern methods of Agriculture, Fishery, and A. Husbandry 14:00 Visit the Museum, then come to Classroom for session on History and Culture of the Sundarbans 19:00 “Discussion on Biodiversity of Sundarbans: Climate Change”	3 hrs 2 hrs 1 hr
Day 4	07:00 – Leave for Gadkhali ferry ghat 07:30 - Board Launch for start of Boat Trip to the “Sundarban National Park and Tiger Reserve” 17:00 – Return to Gadkhali ferry ghat 17:30 - Leave for Kolkata	

### Price of the Package

Price	Rs 4,000 per person for full programme (Day 1 to Day 4) Rs 3,000 per person for short programme (Day 1, 2, 4) or (Day 1, 3, 4)
Including	Accommodation, Full Board, Use of Conference Hall, All activities.



## Science Communicators' Forum

Regd. Office: 50/1A, Suri Lane, Kolkata-700014

Mailing Address: 5, DaburPark, GanguliBagan, Raja S. C. Mallick Road, Kolkata-700084

Phone 91-33-2430-6446; E-mail: [kolkata.scf@gmail.com](mailto:kolkata.scf@gmail.com)

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Subject: Receiving visitors at JGVK to improve their knowledge of the rural conditions and their implications with respect to the society as a whole and the local environment.**

From Abhijit Bardhan – General Secretary, Science Communicators' Forum (SCF), Kolkata.

The undersigned came to know that JGVK plans to initiate a awareness generation capacity building programme for the urban and rural citizens using its capacity that built up from its developed efforts in the Sundarbans during the last 2 decades.

We find the idea being very useful and realistic as most of the young stars of our country do get a theoretic-cal based education of different standard and kept away from practical experience and knowledge, this is true both for the young and the adults in the urban and the rural areas. From our visits we have seen that JGVK has developed a very fine system of knowledge-based learning and practical outlook in all its functions, which is an outcome of its affiliation with the Danish people with their capacity and experience. Therefore, we consider JGVK possesses a unique quality in our state, which others – specially the young generation-should be enriched with and it will be a better utilization of the built-up capacity at JGVK.

We support JGVK's desire to provide this opportunity to the rural and urban young stars and make it a source of income to support the running expense of the VSN School, which will be a win situation. Since it is a new idea it is not properly established, nevertheless considering the service that JGVK can offer and the increasing interest especially in the cities for rural areas, it is question of time when JGVK will have a high and stable number visitors regularly, which may give lead to something very fruitful in the interest of all.

I will be interested to follow the initiative and the outcome in future and provide all the necessary support in its success.

Best wishes

Abhijit Bardhan  
General Secretary





## LADY BRABOURNE COLLEGE

P1/2, SUHRAWARDY AVENUE, KOLKATA-700017

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

From :

To :

To,  
The Secretary,  
Jaogopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra.

Date : 20.11.19

Dear Mr Mahakur,

I have gone through the booklet you have sent us about your plans to start "Educational Tour" programme for students from Kolkata schools and colleges. I must say I am quite impressed with the programme you have put together and have no doubt that students in general will find the total experience both educative and interesting.

I have also gone through the letter of recommendation from the chairman of the West Bengal Biodiversity Board and agree wholeheartedly with the view that the urban-city based children will be really benefitted through experiencing rural life, rural environment, ecology, and biodiversity issues and its livelihood techniques.

Let me assure you that we shall look forward to the actual start of your programme so that we can start sending our students to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Subhalakshmi Pandey*  
Subhalakshmi Pandey,

Associate Professor in History  
Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata.

Head & Associate Professor  
Department of History  
Lady Brabourne College  
GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL



## WEST BENGAL BIODIVERSITY BOARD

(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)

*Dr. Asok Kanti Sanyal*  
Chairman

ডঃ অশোক কান্তি সান্যাল  
চেয়ারম্যান

Kolkata, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

Dear Shri Mahakur,

I am very happy to learn that Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra (JGVK), Basanti, South 24-Parganas, West Bengal is going to launch a unique programme "Edu Tourism" at JGVK. I believe, from my long association with JGVK that your organization will be the appropriate one that has gathered vast experiences over the years through working along all round development of the village communities. It is expected that through this programme students from all academic institutions, Research and Development organizations, schools, colleges and universities will gain overall knowledge and skills in the initiative of development of village communities. It is hoped that this venture of cross learning among rural and urban-city life, will gain momentum with "Edu Tourism". In one hand this will open up opportunities to inculcate scientific attitude among rural students and on the other hand urban-city based children will be benefited through experiencing rural life, environment, ecology and biodiversity issues and its livelihood techniques.

It is expected that with the objective as above the "Edu Tourism" programme will be developed where learning of life processes and technical competencies will be taken care of outside the classroom environment. Further, I mention that JGVK is very much competent to run the programme with success.

To

Shri Biswajit Mahakur  
Secretary  
Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra  
Vill: Joygopalpur, P.O.- J.N. Hat.  
P.S: Basanti  
District : South 24 Parganas  
Pin Code : 743312  
West Bengal, India

(Asok Kanti Sanyal)









**Central Office:**

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